

Remember Industrial Plants on 2nd West?

With plans under way for the eventual removal of the railroad tracks along Second West and construction of a four-lane arterial highway leading to downtown Provo, the history of the street appears to be entering a new phase.

Many old-timers will remember the Mill Race that ran off Provo River and down along Second West providing water and power for several of the city's early industries.

Because of the power supplied by the Mill Race, Second West was for many years one of the main centers for industry in Provo. It was also a good place to go fishing, according to those who grew up here in the days before it was covered over.

To The North

The Arthur Dixon and Company brick yard was located at the north end of Second West, and used power from the river. Many of the bricks used in early Provo homes were made at the brick yard just south of the BYU diagonal. A few years ago, the last remaining water wheel penstock was moved from its location at the brick yard to the Edgemont Veterans-Lions Park, where it is now on display.

The brick yard, which operated before the turn of the century, became the Provo Pressed Brick Company in 1903. Later, in 1918, the company was dissolved, but the yard continued operation and reopened as the Provo Brick and Tile Company in 1923. One of the

persons most commonly associated with the brick yard, S. H. Belmont, was originally a stone cutter, and later went into the cement and brick business when those became the popular building materials. S. H. Belmont's son, Sidney Belmont, operated the plant in more

recent times.

Grist Mill

Just to the south of the brick yard, at the corner of Second West and 1230 North, a grist mill once stood. It was built by John Mills in 1857-58, and was later sold to James Smith. The mill stone on display at the corner of

Second West and 1230 North near Barbizon was found during construction of the factory and placed on display as a monument. In later years, the mill was purchased and the Provo Ice and Storage Company built a plant on the site.

At Fifth North on Second West,

the Hoover brothers operated the Excelsior Roller Mills. John W. Hoover Sr. leased the mills in 1879, and in 1890 installed roller mill equipment and went into business with his son. It was destroyed by fire years later. The city-owned electric com-

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EXCELSIOR ROLLER MILLS photo shows the Old Mill Race in the foreground underneath the bridge leading to the mill. The mill was operated by the Hoover Brothers for many years and, according to information printed at the turn of the

Century, was one of the larger and best known mills in the county. The building was destroyed in later years by fire, and the Mark Andersen Utility Center is located on the block where once the mill stood.